



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Minutes, 10/13/2010

VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP
OCTOBER 13, 2010 MEETING

RESERVOIR COMMITTEE
Town Hall Annex, First Floor

In attendance: Cathy Garnett, Martine Gougault, Jane Howard, Elizabeth Karpati.
Facilitator: Jane Howard Minutes: Elizabeth Karpati

Next meeting: 7:30 p.m. Tues. Nov. 9, Town Hall Annex, First Floor Conference Room.

The purpose of the meeting was to plan the proposed habitat garden at the Res.

The garden will be located on both sides of the new overflow, plus a triangular area pointing toward Lexington.

Martine brought a sketch for the garden area, which already includes several young trees and shrubs, and a plant list.

We have a grant to be used for plant material for such a garden, so that we can buy native shrubs and perennials. Elizabeth offered to donate a couple of spicebushes. Herbaceous natives can also be grown from seed, especially in the meadow area.

The plan includes providing shelter for small animals: some rocks that could be laid along the path that separates the meadow from the rest of the garden, or in clumps in the meadow; and a log pile, i.e. pieces of tree trunks about 5-6 ft. long.

DPW could be asked to move some of the rocks that are already in the area, and to provide the logs from trees that have to be cut somewhere in town.

Another suggested use for a couple of rocks was to move them to the top of the dam and locate them so that they serve as seats from which to enjoy the view over the reservoir. Stroker Rogovin of the Spy Pond Committee, who has relevant experience with the Appalachian Mountain Club, could be asked to help select rocks appropriate for seating or for the garden.

The ground must be prepared before planting and sowing. The grass should be removed without rototilling, especially near the existing trees to avoid damaging their roots. Covering grass with layers of wet newspaper topped with soil would smother it. Compost or topsoil would need to be added. Soil depth needed for meadow is about 6", for shrubs and trees 12-18".

The work would have to be done by volunteers; the census survey in January could be used to ask people to sign up. An article in the *Arlington Advocate* could also be used but someone would have to volunteer to write it. We could post a sign at the Res "Site of Future Habitat Garden" and provide a picture to go with the article.

The meadow would have to be maintained by annual mowing in the fall.

The plans have to be presented to the Con Com for approval, or at least to make sure there are no objections. Con Com permission would also be needed if it becomes necessary to use "Rodeo" to remove any invasive species.

List of things to do before next meeting (November 9):

- Copies of sketch and plant list for committee members (Martine)
- Measure area proposed for garden, make sketch & copies (Elizabeth)
- Ask Park & Rec (Leslie Mayer) if rocks on site can be used as proposed (Martine)

Ask Stroker to help select appropriate rocks (not assigned; Elizabeth is willing)
Ask Jimmy Dodge of DPW about getting logs (Jane)
Ask DPW if it can move the rocks in the fall, if approved (Jane)*
Get a soil test (Martine)
Get on Nov. 4 Con Com agenda (Martine; Elizabeth can also attend)

* P.S. If grass can be removed by machine, consider timing of this work vs. placement of rocks & logs.